

Short Notes.

Note on the occurrence in Selangor of three Vertebrates new to the Malay Peninsula.

Among zoologists at home one constantly hears the remark that our knowledge of the vertebrate fauna of the Malay Peninsula must now be very nearly complete and that but few more species can remain to be added to our lists.

How wide this is of the true state of affairs is shewn by the fact that within the last month, the Dyak Collector attached to the Selangor Museum, has discovered two striking forms which although previously known from Borneo have not hitherto been recorded from the mainland of Asia.

The species are :—

1. *Draco maximus*, Blgr.

This fine species of flying lizard, the largest of the genus, was originally described by Mr. Boulenger (P. Z. S. 1893, p. 522, pl. xlii. fig. 1) from a single male specimen collected by Mr. Hose on Mt. Dulit, Sarawak at a height of 2000 feet. Specimens from the same locality and also from Mts. Matang and Penrissen are in the Sarawak Museum and there is a single female in this Museum, collected at Balingean, some distance up the Sarawak River.

Two individuals, male and female, were captured in deep jungle about nine miles from Kuala Lumpor and agree well with the original diagnosis and with the above-mentioned specimen from Balingean. In the freshly killed lizards the general colour above was moss-green, pale yellowish beneath; gular appendage of the male dull terracotta, the lateral folds black, streaked with white: in the female the appendage was very pale lemon yellow, which rapidly faded into white. Total length of both specimens about 370 mm.

2. *Chrysophlegma mystacale*, Salvad.

Among some miscellaneous bird-skins in the Museum I recently discovered a woodpecker collected by Dr. Dunker on the Semangko Pass, where the trunk road to Pahang crosses the main range at a height of 2700 feet. The specimen was shot on the 29th May 1901 and is sexed female, though this is probably an error of the native skinner. It appears to belong to a species described by Count Salvadori as *Chrysophlegma mystacale*, from collections made in the Padang mountains, West Sumatra, by the famous Italian Botanist Beccari. Subsequently it was obtained by Carl Bock, a Swedish Collector in the employ of Lord Walden in much the same locality, and later on by Dr. H. O. Forbes at Hoodjoong, in the mountains of the Palembang Residency, further to the south. Outside this very limited district I can find no records of its occurrence, and it is somewhat unexpected to find it reappearing in the mountains of the Peninsula, which possess a distinct species (*Chrysophlegma wrayi*) of their own.

General colour above bright olive green, darker on the head and crown, the latter tinged with rufous; nuchal crest, golden yellow. Beneath, greyish olive, darker on the chest and becoming almost black on the throat; chin with a slight rufous tinge. Sides of the head dark greenish grey, malar stripe very pale yellow. Primaries black, broadly barred with rufous, the innermost crimson on their outer webs exteriorly. Tail feathers black, the outermost with an oily lustre beneath Total length:—11 inches; wing 5. 4.

3. *Ptilocercus lowii*, Gray.

PEN-TAILED TREE SHREW.

The occurrence of this small mammal is of even greater interest than that of the preceding as it adds to the Peninsular list a genus that has hitherto been supposed to be specially characteristic of the Bornean group of islands. But even in Sarawak where the species was originally

discovered some fifty years ago it seems to be rare and but little appears to have been recorded of its habits.

Our specimen, an adult female, was captured in its nest in a hollow bough in the same jungle as *Draco maximus*. The nest was merely a tunnel about three inches in diameter and eighteen in length, roughly lined with fibrous materi and with green leaves. The general colour of the animal is a pale greyish brown above, somewhat yellowish beneath with an ill-defined dark stripe running from the muzzle to a little beyond the eye. The tail is naked for two-thirds of its length and covered with scutes like that of a rat; the terminal third is clothed with whitish hair over half an inch in length, whence the trivial name of the species is derived.

Dimensions :—Head and body, 133 ; tail, 167 ; ear 19 ; hind-foot, 34 mm. Examination of a series will not improbably prove that the Peninsular form is separable from the Bornean race, but distinctions based on an unique specimen are apt to be fallacious.

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Occasional Notes.

Pratincola manra (Pall.)

A specimen of the Indian Bush-chat was shot by Captain H. R. Baker at Stagmount, Singapore on Dec. 22, 1904. Hitherto it has been collected as far down as Mysore and the Andamans but Singapore must now be recorded as its most southerly extension. As the species is now included in the avifanna of the Malay Peninsula I give below a description of the plumage in which it was obtained locally.

Male. Forehead, crown, nape, hind neck, back, scapulars, most of the wing-coverts, and upper rump black,